

PT Board Receives Favorable Opinion from AG

On November 9, 2015 the Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners (TSBAE) requested an opinion from the Attorney General's Office regarding the practice of trigger point dry needling by physical therapists. The questions which were initially posed by the TSBAE were :

1. Is the practice of "trigger point dry needling" the practice of acupuncture as defined by Texas Occupations Code §205.001(2)?
2. Did the legislature intend that the practice of acupuncture be clearly encompassed under the scope of the licensure for Physical Therapists?

The AG's Opinion Committee changed the query to:

1. Whether licensed physical therapists are authorized to practice trigger point dry needling.

The PT Board submitted a legal brief and exhibits to the Texas Attorney General's Opinion Committee in response to the TSBAE's request on December 10, 2015 which supported the Board's opinion that trigger point dry needling is within the scope of practice of a physical therapist in the State of Texas.

THE GOOD NEWS! On May 9, 2016, The Attorney General issued a favorable opinion supporting the PT Board's authority to determine that trigger point dry needling is within the scope of practice of physical therapy.

To read the AG opinion KP-0082, click the link below:

<https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/opinions/opinions/51paxton/op/2016/kp0082.pdf>.